

REMARKS

Amendments

The amendment to the Specification merely inserts the prior application information. The clarity of claim 3 is improved by reciting that the pod comprises a receptacle for reversibly attaching an attachment portion of the ganged plurality of printing devices. See, inter alia, Fig. 1. These amendments introduce no new matter.

Double Patenting

A terminal disclaimer over U.S. Pat. No. 6,309,891 is enclosed. Claims 6-7 are canceled because they are duplicates of claims 2 and 12 of copending Application No. 09/819,162.

35USC112, second paragraph

Claims 6-7 are canceled because they are duplicates of claims 2 and 12 of copending Application No. 09/819,162.

35USC103(a)

Claims 6-7. Little et al. US Pat No. 6,024,925. Claims 6-7 are canceled because they are duplicates of claims 2 and 12 of copending Application No. 09/819,162.

Claims 3-7. Feygin, US Pat. No. 5,957,167. Our claim 3-7 recite a printing system comprising a pod, a detachable ganged plurality of printing devices, a substrate and a positioner, wherein:

the pod comprises a receptacle for reversibly attaching an attachment portion of the ganged plurality of printing devices;

each of the printing devices comprises a reservoir containing a liquid comprising a unique agent and in fluid connection with the reservoir, a capillary comprising an axial bore having proximal and distal openings to ambient pressure and a printing tip comprising the distal opening and which prints the agent on the substrate; and

the positioner moves the pod relative to the substrate.

Note that the claims require a detachable ganged plurality of printing devices, as shown inter alia in Figs. 1, 8-16. Feygin describes fluid dispensing using discrete and non-detachable dispensing members. Feygin does not teach or suggest anything like printing from a detachable, ganged plurality of printing devices.

Claims 1-2, 8-11 and 13-17. Feygin (supra) and Thomas, US Pat. No. 5,544,535. Our claim 1 recites a printing system comprising a pod, a detachable printing device, a substrate, a positioner and a preservation device, wherein:

the pod comprises a receptacle for reversibly attaching an attachment portion of the printing device;

the printing device comprises a reservoir containing a liquid comprising a predetermined agent and in fluid connection with the reservoir, a capillary comprising an axial bore having proximal and distal openings to ambient pressure and a printing tip comprising the distal opening and which prints the agent on the substrate;

the positioner moves the pod relative to the substrate; and

the preservation device is within, containing or in contact with the printing device and preserves the capability of the printing device to print the agent on the substrate over long-term storage.

Note that this claim requires that the pod comprises a receptacle for reversibly attaching an attachment portion of the printing device. Feygin describes fluid dispensing using discrete and non-detachable dispensing members. Feygin does not teach or suggest reversibly attaching printing devices, such as to facilitate storage of reagent-loaded printing devices, as shown, inter alia, in our Figs. 10-16. In fact, there is no apparent way to modify Feygin's system to make her printing devices reversibly attached to a pod. Furthermore, the side-open geometry of Feygin's fluid dispensing members (200; Feygin, col.3, lines 18-27) appears to preclude sealing with a rubber pad, as disclosed in Thomas.

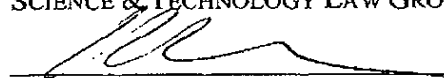
Claims 12-18. Feygin, Thomas (supra) and Brown US Pat. No. 5,807,522. The rejection of these dependent claims relies on Feygin and Thomas, which are unable to suggest the

limitations of our claims 1 and 2.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned if she would like to amend the claims to clarify the foregoing or seeks further clarification of the claim language.

We petition for and authorize charging our Deposit Account No.19-0750 all necessary extensions of time. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees or credit any overcharges relating to this communication to our Dep. Acct. No.19-0750 (order IN-0012-4).

Respectfully submitted,
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY LAW GROUP



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enc. Terminal Disclaimer (1 p.)

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